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Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-10 OMB-01 DHA-02

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01 /089 W
---------- 039113
R 121315Z AUG 75
FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2887
INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY RABAT

C O N F I D E N T I A L ALGIERS 1796

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, SS, MR, MO, AG
SUBJECT: SPANISH SAHARA

1. SUMMARY; MORE INDICATIONS THAT THERE IS NO MOROCCAN-ALGERIAN AGREEMENT ON SPANISH SAHARA ARE SURFACING.

2. DISCUSSED SPANISH SAHARA ISSUE WITH DIRECTOR EUROPEAN AND NORTH AMERICAN AFFAIRS MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS MOHAMED ABERKANE MORNING AUGUST 11. HE SAYS ALGERIAN POLICY ON SAHARA HAS NOT CHANGED AND ALGERIANS STILL SUPPORT PRINCIPLE OF SELF-DETERMINATION. THEY HAVE NO PRECONCEIVED NOTIONS AS TO WHAT SETTLEMENT SHOULD BE OTHER THAN THAT PEOPLE OF SAHARA SHOULD BE GIVEN OPPORTUNITY EXERCISE CHOICE. FURTHERMORE, THEY INSISTE THAT ALGERIA IS INTERESTED PARTY. THEY MUST HAVE A SAY ABOUT WHAT HAPPENS. (SAME BASIC LINE APPEARS IN AUGUST ISSUE OF ARMY MONTHLY EL DJEICH IN EDITORIAL ON KAMPALA OAU SUMMIT; WOULD NOTE THAT EL DJEICH EFFORT FIRST TIME ALGERIAN PRESS HAS MENTIONED SPANISH SAHARA IN OAU CONTEXT.)

3. ABERKANE SAID WHAT BOUTEFLIKA HAD TOLD KING HAD BEEN CONFIDENTIAL

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MISINTERPRETED BY MOROCCANS AND MOROCCANS WERE NOW ACCUSING

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ALGERIANS OF GOING BACK ON THEIR WORD. I POINTED
OUT THAT MOST OBESERVERS HAD INTERPRETED JULY 4 COMMUNIQUE AS
MEANING ALGERIA HAD AGREED TO PARTITION OF SAHARA BETWEEN
MAURITANIA AND MOROCCO IN EXCHANGE FOR RATIFICATION OF ALGERIAN-
MOROCCAN BORDER ACCORD. ABERKANE SAID THIS HAD BEEN MISREADING OF
COMMUNIQUE WHICH WAS VERY VAGUE STATEMENT. BORDER ACCORD
HAD BEEN SIGNED SOME TIME AGO BUT HASSAN HAD NOT WANTED
TO RATIFY IT FOR HIS OWN REASONS. THAT DID NOT AFFECT
NATURE OF THE AGREEMENT, AND IN ANY EVENT BORDERS WERE
NOT PROTECTED BY PIECES OF PAPER BUT BY OTHER MEANS.
ALGERIANS WERE TAKING STEPS TO PROTECT THEIRS. BORDER
ISSUE WAS SETTLED AS FAR AS THEY CONCERNED. TO RATIFY
AGREEMENT WOULD OF COURSE IMPROVE RELATIONS AND THIS WAS
TO BE HOPED FOR, BUT ALGERIANS HAD NOT AGREED TO BARTER
THIS FOR PARTITITION.

4. ABERKANE SAID THERE WAS TALK THAT THE MOROCCANS WOULD
MOVE INTO SAHARA MILITARILY IN WAKE OF ADVISORY OPINION
BEING ISSUED BY ICJ. IN FACT, MATTER SHOULD BE REFERRED
BACK TO UN. ICJ DECISION WAS ONLY ADVISORY AND NOT BINDING
ON ANYONE. IT COULD NOT SOLVE PROBLEM. HE DID NOT
INDICATE WHAT ALGERIANS WOULD DO IF MOROCCANS DID IN FACT
MOVE INTO SAHARA.

5. ABERKANE NOTED THAT ALGERIANS HAD BEEN SUPPORTING F.
POLISARIO WHICH CLAIMED REPRESENT PEOPLES OF SAHARA (HIS
TONE IMPLIED HE SKEPTICAL OF THAT CLAIM). I SAID WE
UNDERSTOOD F. POLISARIO HAD A REPRESENTATIVE HERE AND
ABERKANE SAID, YES, ALGERIANS WERE NEGOTIATING RELEASE
OF SOME MORE SPANISH PRISONERS THROUGH THEM. I ASKED HOW
MANY AND HE SAID 20 OR 30.

6. ABERKANE SAID ALGERIANS UNDERSTOOD FRENCH WERE VERY
ACTIVELY SUPPORTING MOROCCANS IN THEIR PRESENTATION TO
ICJ AND THAT A NOTEE LEGAL SPECIALIST FROM THE FACULTY
OF THE SORBONNE HAD BEEN DETAILED TO THE QUAI TO HELP
PREPARE THE CASE. (THIS REMARK COMES AT A TIME WHEN
ALGERIANS VERY UPSET WITH FRENCH OVER QUESTIONS DISCUSSEED
OUR 1773.)

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7. COMMENT: LAST TIME I ASKED ABERKANE ABOUT THIS
SUBJECT HE PROFESSED IGNORANCE AS TO WHAT HAD GONE ON
BETWEEN BOUTEFLIKA AND HASSAN AT RABAT. THIS TIME HE
SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN BRIEFED. WHILE ALGERIAN EXPLANATION
IS VERY NEAT AND IS DELIVERED WITH EVERY EVIDENCE OF
CONVICTION, WE FIND IT DIFFICULT BELIEVE HASSAN
MISUNDERSTOOD BOUTEFLIKA AS THOROUGHLY AS ABERKANE
REMARKS WOULD INDICATE.

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8. MOROCCAN EMBASSY HERE ALSO PROFESSES ITS INABILITY
FIGURE OUT WHY ALGERIANS HAVE, IN MOROCCAN VIEW,
RENEGED ON JULY 4 COMMUNIQUE. IN AUG 11 CONVERSATION
MOROCCAN EMBOFF STATED IT NOW CLEAR ALGERIANS REMAIN
COMMITTED TO SELF-DETERMINATION, AND REFERRED TO BEJAOUI'S
ICJ PRESENTATION, MOROCCAN-ALGERIAN "CLASH" AT ICJ, AND
ALGERIA'S EFFORT HAVE OAU AT KAMPALA RECOGNIZE FRONT
POLISARIO, EFFORT SIDELINED HE SAID ONL BY MOROCCO
THREATENING TO WPITHDRAW FROM SUMMIT. HE DISCOUNTED
SPECULATION THAT BOUTEFLIKA HAD EXCEEDED INSTRUCTONS,
COMMENTING THAT BOUTEFLIKA HAD BEEN IN CONSTANT TELEPHONE
CONTACT WITH BOUMEDIENE DURING DRAFTING OF COMMUNIQUE.
TO ILLUSTRATE BOUMEDIENE'S DIRECT INVOLVEMENT, HE SAID
IT WAS BOUMEDIENE WHO PERSONALLY HAD REFERENCE TO
MOROCCAN-MAURITANIA "ACCORD" IN DRAFT COMMUNIQUE
CHANGED TO "ENTENTE" IN FINAL VERSION.PARKER

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